

The United States swept every Nobel Prize in technical and scientific fields. Today, the committee picked the Peace Prize winner - a man and movement from Bangladesh heavily backed with US funding.

I have worked with Dr. Muhamed Yunus for 20 years. He is the banker from Bangladesh who invented micro credit loans to lift the poorest of the poor from poverty. Yunus's Grameen bank, making loans of \$50 to groups of mainly Bangladeshi women, grew to become the largest bank in his country. His micro credit movement has spread to every nation, including the United States.

Before I was elected to Congress, I helped work on the first Micro Credit Summit with Sam Daly Harris of Results. We welcomed First Lady Hilary Clinton in an event that helped Yunus move into the mainstream media. I helped introduce him and the group FINCA to the Queen of Jordan. Micro credit is now her cause, helping lift incomes throughout the Middle East. There are other micro credit groups - Opportunity International is based right here in Chicago.

One man, one idea and millions of people lifted out of poverty because of Yunus. As a congressman on the key foreign assistance subcommittee, I have been the strongest backer of Micro credit programs supported by USAID.



